

HCCTCC Tobacco News

Volume 9 Issue 1

Cigarette Restitution Fund Programs in Harford County

Fall 2005

SAVE THE DATE!

HCCTCC Annual
Joint Coalition Meeting
November 3, 2005
8:00am-1:00pm
HEAT Center

Faith Based Fair
September 13, 2005
Richlin Ballroom
12:00noon-6:00pm
No cost to attend

12th Maryland State
Council on Cancer Control
Conference
November 16, 2005
8:30am-3:00pm
Martin's West
Baltimore, MD
No cost to attend



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From the Coordinator's Desk

It's hard to believe that summer is over and that school has started. The leaves will soon be changing and everyone will once again be pulling out the sweaters and jackets.

As usual the summer was a busy time of closing out one fiscal year and getting ready for the next. It was exciting to get the End of the Year reports from our grantees and read about what great results they produced with their programs. It was once again a very successful grant year.

Grant applications were released on July 1st. We had some great programs submitted once again and the Grant Review Committee had a difficult time choosing which projects to fund. We are very pleased with the grant projects that have been chosen and look forward to working with these grantees during the year. Thank you to the members of the Grant Review Committee for taking time out of their busy schedules to spend the day discussing grants. Reviewing and awarding grants is a vital part of our program and we are grateful to the coalition

members who are willing to take on this task.

We are also happy to announce that we have two new staff members. Allison Frey (Kellner) started with us as the new School Tobacco Program Specialist on August 1st. We are also fortunate to have Elizabeth Holmes with us through December. Elizabeth is our Special Projects Manager and will be in charge of specific tasks within the Division. Last but not least, our annual Joint Coalition meeting is in November. This is going to be a great meeting and a good chance to network with the members of the Cancer Section. I look forward to seeing each of you there.

Andrea Pomilla
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"Smoke-Free in HC" Subcommittee Meeting

September 22, 2005

9:30am-11:00am

Harford County Health Department

If you are interested in attending the meeting or if you would like more information about the subcommittee, please call Kristen at (410) 638-8424.

Secondhand Smoke, What's The Cost?

Secondhand smoke imposes significant costs on nonsmokers and society, according to a recent Society of Actuaries (SOA) study that concluded the annual cost of excess medical care, mortality and morbidity from secondhand smoke exposure in the U.S. is approximately \$10 billion. This includes approximately \$5 billion in direct medical costs and approximately \$5 billion in indirect costs, such as lost wages, reduced services and costs associated with disabilities per year.

This study is one of the first to explore the economic effects of secondhand smoke exposure for a variety of medical conditions in which it has shown to increase the incidence of illness. The many conditions studied include, but are not limited to, lung cancer, asthma, and chronic pulmonary and coronary artery diseases.

By relating where secondhand smoke exposure happens-either at home, work or in both locations-to the level of increase in incidence, the research team determined the number of additional medical cases in the U.S. related to secondhand smoke exposure. "We wanted to understand the difference in cost that would occur if exposure to environmental tobacco smoke were simply eliminated," said Donald Behan, Fellow of the SOA and lead researcher on the project. "While the health effects of secondhand smoke are reduced in comparison to active smoking, the number of people exposed is so large that the costs are substantial. As our research shows, even though exposure to secondhand smoke has been greatly reduced over the last 15 years, it remains a public health concern with an economic impact in the U.S. of many billions of dollars per year."

These findings were gathered by reviewing more than 200 published studies or reports that date back as far as 1964 on the health effects of environmental tobacco smoke. While many of the studies document a health risk associated with secondhand smoke exposure, few have attempted to quantify an economic consequence of the risk.

Source: PRNewswire

Did You Know?

- On December 28, 2004, the Montana Supreme Court ruled 5-2 that a Montana law exempting establishments with video gambling machines from local smoke-free air ordinances stronger than state law doesn't actually preempt local smoke-free air ordinances in these establishments.
- On December 22, 2004, R.J. Reynolds settled a lawsuit with California Attorney General Bill Lockyer over whether R.J. Reynolds violated terms of the Master Settlement Agreement by advertising in magazines with significant youth readership. R.J. Reynolds will pay \$11.4 million in civil penalties and \$5.9 million for legal costs and will only advertise in magazines with less than 15 percent youth readership with limited exceptions.
- On December 23, 2004, North Carolina Business Court Judge Ben Tennille ruled that since the U.S. Congress passed a \$10.1 billion tobacco quota buyout this year, tobacco companies are no longer obligated to make payments to tobacco farmers in 14 states negotiated as part of the Master Settlement Agreement in 1999.
- In December 2004, both Philip Morris and Reynolds American, a new company formed by the merger of R.J. Reynolds and Brown & Williamson, announced price increases or a reduction in retailer discounts on most brands of their cigarettes. For Philip Morris, this is the first time the company has raised its cigarette prices in two and a half years. Reynolds American cited the recently enacted tobacco quota buyout and ongoing expenses related to the Master Settlement Agreement as their reasons for increasing prices.
- October 27th is National Lung Health Day. This is a time to increase awareness about the dangers effects of smoking and secondhand smoke. To get ideas for what you can do to observe this day, visit the American Lung Association website at www.lungusa.org or the American Cancer Society website at www.cancer.org.
- According to the American Journal of Public Health (March 2002) the truth campaign is responsible for approximately 300,000 fewer youth smokers. The campaigns edgy, sometimes humorous ads provide teens with the truth about tobacco industry tactics, tobacco addictions, and tobacco-related disease.
- The Great American Smoke Out is held every year on the third Thursday of November. This year the Great American Smoke Out will be on November 17th. This is an annual event that encourages smokers to give up smoking just for one day. Hopefully this one day of being smoke-free will give smokers the confidence and motivation to stay quit.

Federal Trade Commission Issues Cigarette Report for 2003

The Federal Trade Commission's annual report on cigarette sales and advertising shows that the major cigarette manufacturers spent \$15.15 billion on advertising and promotional expenditures in 2003, an increase of \$2.68 billion (21.5 percent) from 2002 and the most ever reported to the Commission. The total number of cigarettes sold or given away by those manufacturers decreased by 19.8 billion cigarettes (5.1 percent) from 2002 to 2003. The manufacturers also reported spending \$72.9 million on advertisements directed to youth or their parents intended to reduce youth smoking, a 1.8 percent decrease from the \$74.2 million reported in 2002.

According to the report, the major domestic cigarette manufacturers sold or gave away 367.6 billion cigarettes domestically in 2003, 19.8 billion fewer than the 387.4 billion in 2002. Sales declined from 376.4 billion in 2002 to 360.5 billion in 2003, while the number of cigarettes given away decreased from 11.1 billion to 7.1 billion.

This is the second report issued since the Commission subdivided its "promotional allowances" expenditure category into four new categories: price discounts, pro-

motional allowances paid to retailers, promotional allowances paid to wholesalers, and other promotional allowances. In 2003, price discounts paid to retailers or wholesalers to reduce the price of cigarettes to consumers was the single largest category of expenditures reported by the manufacturers, accounting for \$10.81 billion (71.4 percent of total spending). Together, the four categories of promotional expenditures totaled \$12.72 billion (84.0 percent of all spending).

Manufacturers spent \$156.4 million on magazine advertising for cigarettes in 2003, an increase of 46.4 percent from 2002. Still, magazine advertising only represented 1.0 percent of total spending. Spending on outdoor advertising totaled \$32.6 million in 2003, representing an increase of 34.8 percent from 2002, but still only making up 0.2 percent of total advertising and promotional spending. Spending on point-of-sale promotional advertisements declined from \$260.9 million in 2002 to \$165.6 million in 2003.

Major cigarette manufacturers increase promotional spending by \$2.69 billion from 2002.

Source: <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2005/08/cigreport.htm>



Washington DC to Decide Smoke-free Workplace Issue



Washington Mayor Anthony Williams announced his support at the beginning of the summer for smoke-free workplace legislation, stating that business in New York City and other smoke-free places clearly indicates that clean indoor air is good for health and good for business. DC Councilmember, Carol Schwartz (chair of a key committee blocking passage of smoke-free workplace legislation), has every newspaper in Washington buzzing with her latest tactic to confuse the issue. With tongue in cheek, Schwartz introduced a bill that would ban the use of alcohol in DC, claiming that alcohol use was dangerous to workers.

"We all know that bartenders and waitstaff are constantly harassed by drinking customers" said Schwartz. "Bouncers are even beaten up by drunks. I care about these workers and their safety." Schwartz failed to recognize that harassment and physical assault are already illegal. Schwartz continued her mockery by stating, "I'm also now looking at some other legal choices to ban-like driving and sex-for they, too, can be dangerous to your health and the health of others." "Councilmember Schwartz has reached a new low trying to divert attention from the diseases caused by secondhand smoke to workers and others who are forced to it," says Joe Cherner, founder of BREATHE (Bar and Restaurant Employees Advocating Together for a Healthy Environment). "Health authorities are not trying to ban tobacco use. Health authorities are restricting tobacco use in order to protect innocent people, the same way they restrict alcohol use when innocent people are harmed (drunk driving, disturbing the peace, disorderly conduct, etc.)."

Before her latest tactic, Councilmember Schwartz repeatedly boasted that business owners should be left to decide what is best for the health of employees and the public. Health advocates quickly refuted the claim. "We don't make other public health measures (like clean kitchens and safe food) voluntary," said Matthew Myers, President of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. "Comprehensive laws that cover all workplaces are cheapest, fairest, and the most effective way to protect public health."

Source: www.smokefree.net

Coalition Corner

Minority Coalition Meetings

The Minority Coalition of Harford County addresses health disparities among minorities in Harford County and assists organizations to build their capacity to serve the community.

All meetings are held at the Edgewood Senior Center at 6:00pm. Light meals are provided.

Meeting dates are as follows:

September 8, 2005

October 13, 2005

(joint with Cancer Coalition)

November 10, 2005

December 8, 2005

For more information call LaSonya Brown at (410) 272-3278 X 106 or email at labrownhome@aol.com.

We Need You!!

The annual Joint Coalition meeting is November 3, 2005. We are currently in the process of planning the meeting and we need your help. If you have seen a speaker or know of a speaker that you thought was particularly good please email or call with the information. We want this meeting to be as worthwhile and informative as possible. If you have a certain topic that you would like to hear about we'd love that input as well.

Please send all ideas by September 30, 2005 to arush20@hotmail.com or call (410) 638-8440.

See you at the meeting!

Grant Funding Still Available

There is still a small amount of money available for Special Opportunity Mini-Grants. Special Opportunity Mini-Grants are smaller grants for one time projects. This type of grant is a great way for an organization or community group to gain experience with writing and implementing a grant project.

Some examples of grant projects are:

Purchasing No Smoking signage for a church or organization

Purchasing tobacco related brochures and a brochure rack

Holding a tobacco free event for youth and their families

You are only limited by your imagination when it comes to writing a grant. All projects should have a strong tobacco focus. If you would like to apply for a Special Opportunity Mini-Grant or know an organization that would be interested, please call (410) 638-8405 to receive an application.

Eat 5 to 9 a Day for Better Health

September is National 5 a Day Month, so if you aren't already striving to eat 5 to 9 servings of fruits and vegetables a day then this is the month to start setting that goal.

Here are some tips for how to reach your goal:

- Keep washed and cut fruits and vegetables in the refrigerator for easy snacking
- Instead of bread, stuff a hollowed out tomato or pepper with tuna or chicken salad
- Cut up a banana or slice strawberries and put them in your morning cereal or yogurt
- Eat a tossed salad each night with dinner

Try a variety of fruits and vegetables so you won't get bored. Once you start getting the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables you will look and feel so much healthier. For more information about eating 5 to 9 a day visit www.5aday.gov.

Smoke Free News

Worker's Nicotine Level Cut In Half

Three months after Lexington's restaurants and bars went smoke-free, the amount of nicotine in workers' hair had decreased by 56 percent, according to a study that was recently released by the University of Kentucky.

Over time, hair records exposure to nicotine and, thus, secondhand smoke. The results of the study show that bar and restaurant workers, even smokers, reduced their exposure to secondhand smoke by more than half after the ban went into effect. Secondhand smoke has been shown to increase the risk of heart attacks in as little as 30 minutes and to cause cancer.

"The law is not only helping the non-smokers, but the workers as well," said Ellen Hahn, one of the study's authors and a professor of nursing at the University of Kentucky. Hahn is a vocal advocate of the ban.

Before the ban went into effect in April 2004, researchers recruited 106 workers at 37 restaurants and five bars. The establishments were chosen at random from a list provided by the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department. Hair from the workers was tested before the ban went into effect and three months after the ban and then analyzed for nicotine content. Each time, researchers tested 1 centimeter of hair, cut closest to the scalp. One centimeter records approximately 30 days of nicotine exposure. The participants were also interviewed about their smoking habits, their working hours and their health. In addition to reducing the amount of nicotine in hair, workers reported fewer colds and sinus infections after the law went into effect.

Source: Sarah Vos, Herald-Leader

Smoking Bans

Since the last newsletter, the following cities, states or countries have enacted smoke-free bans:

Wheeling-Ohio County, WV

Pittsburgh Zoo

Scotland

Quebec, Canada

Vermont

Bhutan

Malta

College dorms in New Jersey



Harford County Health Department Fall Stop Smoking Classes

Option 1:

Edgewood Health Department

Pre-Quitting Class: September 20, 2005

6:00-8:00pm

Stop Smoking Classes: September 27, October 4, 11, 18

6:00-7:30pm

Option 2:

Aberdeen Community Services Building

Pre-Quitting Class: September 15, 2005

1:00-2:30pm

Stop Smoking Classes: September 22 October 4, 11, 18
1:00-2:00pm

Option 3:

Harford County Health Department-Bel Air

Pre-Quitting Class: September 13, 2005

6:00-8:00pm

Stop Smoking Classes: September 20, 27 October 4, 11
6:30-8:00pm

Classes are FREE and Nicotine Patches are free for those who qualify.

About the HCCTCC

The Harford County Cancer & Tobacco Community Coalition, formed in 1999, serves as the planning and advisory board for programs developed utilizing grants from the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF). The Tobacco Section of the HCCTCC ensures that Harford County voices are heard, and every community's needs are met, in terms of tobacco education, cessation, and enforcement. More than sixty five community members including individuals, faith-based groups, the public and independent school systems, for-profit and not for-profit agencies, and the Health Department, come together, working in concert, striving for a healthier Harford County.

The Coalition has rallied the community around events such as health fairs, PSA video contests, billboard contests, fun nights, and the College's survivor weekend, all with the express purpose of raising the consciousness level of Harford County residents, in regard to the harmful effects of tobacco products and secondhand smoke.

Harford County Health Department Staff - Tobacco Section & Health Education

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